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CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY

OCT 24 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

CONCERNING TAXATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Gentlemen,

Following review of the terms of reference of the Ontario Committee on Taxation, THE TRUSTEES OF THE CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY OF TORONTO respectfully request serious consederation of the following matter.

A considerable number of years ago, several Christian residents of Onatrio who do not belong to the Roman Catholic Church, became quite concerned about the education of their children in public schools of Ontario. This concern arose from the conviction of these residents that the education of children is a primary responsibility of the parents of such children. Consequently, when conflicts arose as a result of differences between the religious education at home and corresponding education, or the lack thereof, in public schools, these residents together instituted a system of Christian Schools in Ontario. During 1962 4277 children were being educated in 31 such schools in the province.

The objective of these schools is not only to provide daily periods of religious instruction, but to educate children towards assuming their station in life as mature Christian men and women. As such the education by these schools complements and is in agreement with the education of these pupils by their parents. In contrast herewith, public schools provide a very limited and general form of religious instruction on a basis acceptable to thw greatest number of residents. Futhermore, the education of children in such schools in other subjects is not specifically based on the acceptance of a society, centered in and directed by God.

The foregoing remarks are given as a background for this request and to submit, that, for the children of these residents of Ontario, the education by Christian Schools has been accepted by the provincial and federal government as a substitute for corresponding education in Public Schools. These Christian Schools are inspected by the authotities in respect of standards of health and education, and if not are agreeable to accept such inspection at any time in future.

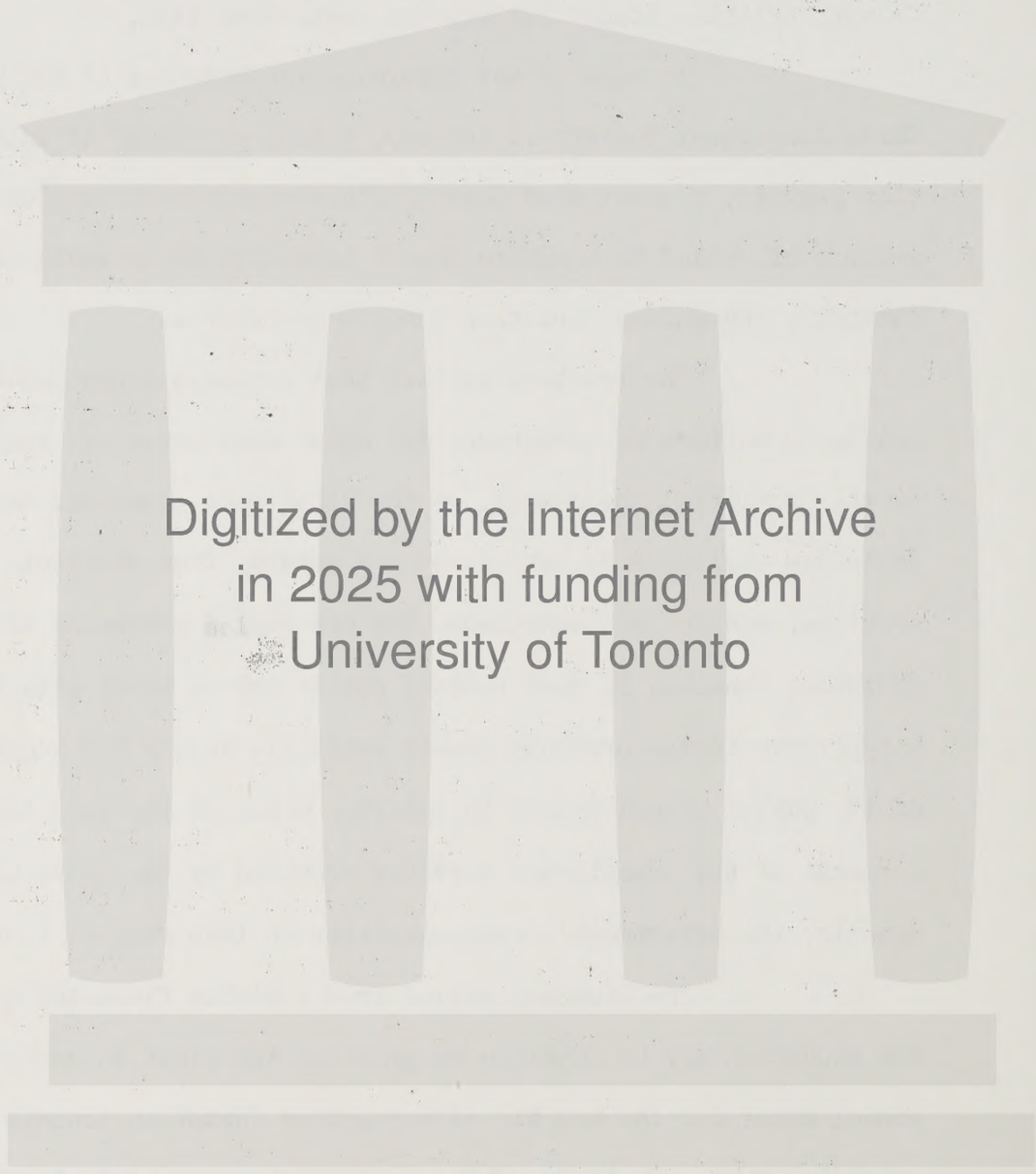
These Christian Schools are currently financed by donations from subscribing Christian residents and churches in Ontario and tuition fees from the parents of pupils. Futhermore, these donations and fees are set at such a level as to assure the provision of an adequate standard of education, since otherwise pupils in effect would pay for the privilege of Christian education. As a result the financial burden of parents of pupils in respect of education is heavy and has been a concern of the Trustees of the Calvin Christian School Society for quite some time.

In view of the foregoing the Trustees of the Calvin Christian School Society of Toronto, acting on behalf of such Christian parents, request your Committee's serious consideration of some measure of relief from public school taxes for the parents of pupils attending recognized Christian Schools in Ontario.

The Trustees realize that a social responsibility exists in matters of education, for which some taxes are required by the provincial government. On the other hand, however, these Christian residents do not expect any subsidy from residents of the province, who do not acknowledge the principles governing these Christian Schools. In view thereof public school taxes paid by non-parents in the province remain available solely for support of the public school system in Ontario, while at the same time as a result of the educational services provided by the above Christian Schools, the Government's responsibility in this respect is reduced.

The proposed relief from a double financial burden for education may be obtained by granting the right to designate school taxes for the benefit of recognized Christian Schools or by providing for a rebate of public school taxes on proof of support of Christian Schools.

At the present time the first method is allowed to Roman Catholic residents of the province and the resulting discrimination against Christian residents, who do not belong to the Roman Catholic Church, is keenly felt by these residents who on the basis of their faith and conscience support Christian Schools. Therefore, serious consideration of a removal of this inequity in the present taxation structure is requested from the Ontario Committee on Taxation,



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especially since this is feasible on a simple administrative basis.

Yours faithfully,

J. J. Koning

J.J. Koning, President
The Calvin Christian School Society.

Toronto, October 22 1963.